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SOVIET DESCRIBES OUSTER OF COUPLE

American Diplomat and Wife
Are Portrayed in Detail as
Being on Spy Mission

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Sept. 13 — The Soviet press gave unusually detailed accounts today of the apprehension of an American couple whose expulsion on spying charges was announced Monday.

Pravda, Tass and the evening television news described in detail how Lon David Augustenborg, the American vice consul in Leningrad, and his wife, Denise, were caught Sunday at the 25-mile marker on the road northwest to Zelenogorsk. The couple were said to have been picking up a greasy canister containing espionage data on the Soviet Navy that had been gathered by a Soviet agent.

The accounts were accompanied by indignant assertions that "blanket espionage lies at the basis of President Reagan's policy," and that "such notions as conscience, decency and morals are nothing more than idle talk for television appearances by the President, and the statements he makes with an eye to philistines and their votes."

The United States Embassy declined any comment on the Augustenborgs' ouster. But diplomatic sources said the unusual publicity given the incident, especially the shots shown on television of purported espionage materials and instructions, seemed intended to add credibility to the official Soviet claims that the Korean Air Lines 747 shot down by Soviet interceptors Sept. 1 had been on an American espionage mission.

Couple Accompanied by Child

The Soviet accounts said Mr. and Mrs. Augustenborg left Leningrad with their small daughter, whose name and age were not given, on what they intended to appear as a pleasure outing. "He calculated on Soviet humaneness, on our love for children," Pravda said.

At the 25-mile marker, the accounts said, the car stopped, Mrs. Augustenborg got out, dropped a baby blanket on the container and threw it in the rear seat of the car.

"She had time to smear a heap of baby clothes with grease (evidently specially prepared for covering the container) but had no time to get back in the car," Pravda wrote. "She was caught red-handed."

The Soviet accounts said Mr. Augustenborg tried to drive away, but was apprehended by K.G.B. agents. Boris Kaliagin, a television commentator who read the account on the evening news, said Mr. Augustenborg had resisted arrest and had denied he knew what his wife was doing.

Treatment Is Protested

The State Department in Washington reported Monday that it had protested to Moscow over the physical mistreatment of the Augustenborgs, although it gave no details.

Mr. Kaliagin, on the news program, showed still photographs of Russian-language instructions and materials that were purportedly given the Soviet agent by Americans, including tablets for developing coded messages, packets of money, envelopes and pre-written letters made to look like regular tourist greetings that the agent was to use for sending his reports.

The news program also showed photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Augustenborg's identity cards, and what Mr. Kaliagin described as a list of instructions and questions for the agent, including information on his friends, his superiors and their offices, and illustrated instructions on where to drop the canister.

Pravda printed a photograph that included a sheet marked "codes," Soviet currency, and, for unexplained reasons, a number of stamps with the image of President John F. Kennedy. No information was given on the fate of the Soviet agent.

U.S. Is Denounced

The entire account was accompanied in Pravda and on the television news by angry and indignant accusations against the United States.

"The failure of one more action by the C.I.A.," Pravda wrote, "is fresh proof of the fact that in increasing their subversion around the world, subversion jeopardizing the interests of peace and the security of the peoples, American special services have especially stepped up their hostile activities against socialist states, the Soviet Union in particular."

The paper charged that the C.I.A. was "prepared to do anything" to gain its information, that "the sovereignty of states or the generally accepted standards of the interstate relations do not exist for them."

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